

**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA  
FIRE & POLICE COMMISSION MINUTES**

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Thursday **April 22, 2010** @ 4:00  
Santa Barbara Police Department Annex  
222 E. Anapamu St.

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**REGULAR MEETING**

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:**

Present: Commissioners: Lennon, Signor and Christiansen (Parker & Rodriguez excused absences)

Staff Present: Councilmember Deputy Chief Frank Mannix, Fire Chief Andy DiMizio, Sgt. Riley Harwood, Police Technician Holly Perea and Secretary, Barbara Sansone; Traffic Hearing Officer Conrad Sabiron

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**MOTION:** Signor to approve minutes of **March 25, 2010**

**VOTE:** Unanimous voice vote: Motion passed

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Any member of the public may address the Fire & Police Commission for up to one minute on any subject within the jurisdiction of the Commission that is not scheduled for a public hearing before the Commission. The total time for this item is 10 minutes. If you wish to address the Commission under this item, please complete and deliver to the Commission Secretary before the meeting is convened, a "Request to Speak" form, including a description of the subject you wish to address.

Present: Susie Thompson

Ms. Thompson spoke after Item 9 regarding the amendment to the dance ordinance and the problems that dance permits cause in the Entertainment District; an amendment could cause people in the Entertainment District to feel "discriminated" against; she has personally seen what a nightmare it is in the downtown area. Ms. Thompson spoke of the impact on the police department having to police this area and that it is not fair to the "general citizens."

**4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

None

**5. OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**6. NEW BUSINESS:**

**7. COMMISSIONERS TO DECIDE WHETHER TO COMPILE AN ANNUAL REPORT FOR COUNCIL**

**MOTION:** Christiansen to continue this item until the next Fire & Police Commission meeting

**VOTE:** Unanimous voice vote: Motion Passed

**8. TOW HEARING: APPEAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION BY HEARING OFFICER CONRAD SABIRON RE EXCESSIVE TOW FEES (PAUL BURNS)**

Present: Representatives from Smitty's Towing; Hearing Officer Conrad Sabiron

**MOTION:** Christiansen to deny appeal of Paul Burns

**VOTE:** Unanimous voice vote; motion passed

**9. COMMISSIONER RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MAYOR SCHNEIDER AND COUNCILMEMBER DAS WILLIAMS RE THEIR REQUEST FOR AMENDING THE DANCE PERMIT ORDINANCE (This would impact business outside the Entertainment District, with fewer than 80 occupancy and serving only beer and wine.)**

- There was a brief discussion by Commissioners present, Commissioners Signor and Lennon were not in favor of amending the present dance ordinance; Commissioner Christiansen stated that she was not a Commissioner during the long process of executing the new dance ordinance
- DC Mannix stated that the police department was approached by Helene Schneider, who asked for a law enforcement opinion, asking if this amendment would cause a burden to the police department; DC Mannix stated that since the businesses this would impact tend to be very small, the department did not think this would cause an increase in patrol responses to these locations; especially since these locations are already licensed; the department had no objections
- Ultimately, Commissioner Christiansen suggested that the Commissioners draft a memo/recommendation to present to Council; this memo most likely will be presented at the next Fire & Police Commission meeting
- After consulting with the City Attorney's Office, the Commissioners were notified that as long as only 2 Commissioners work on this memo, which would be considered a subcommittee, it would not be a violation of the Brown Act

**10. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT –**

**Topics presented:**

- 2 structure fires; one occurred; at 1704 Grand Avenue; this was significant because it was an area that would be impacted if it was necessary to have a "brown out" at Station 3; Station 3 was in quarters and responded; people were using a garden hose to try to extinguish the fire; somewhat of a "pack rat" situation; civilian injured fighting this fire
- Budget presentation is May 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm
- It is looking like no layoffs will be taking place; Warehouse Specialist position will be saved; Chief continues to be optimistic
- April 15<sup>th</sup> Milpas St. structure fire; catering business
- "Wildland Fire Season Opener" on April 28<sup>th</sup> at Scofield Park; Chief will be at an Earthquake Management training and will be unable to attend; Operations Chief Dean Sylvies will be attending
- Leadership Training program called "Human Factors" will be put on for entire staff

## **11. POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT**

### **Topics presented:**

- First quarter analysis of Part 1 crimes down: Violent Crime down 40% in the first 3 months of this year; Rape down 88%; Robbery down 22%; Aggravated Assaults down 33%; 20% reduction in Property Crime
- Response times are the lowest they've been in the last 3 years; Priority 1 calls for service 5.5 minutes; 2009 overall response time was 6.8 minutes; target is below 7 minutes
- 11 vacancies; 4 cadets in the Academy; 6 vacancies in Patrol/1 TPF officer and 1 Nightlife Enforcement Officer; 2 vacancies in detective bureau and 3 Beat Coordinators; 9 officers on injured list;
- 133 current strength; authorized at 140; if we go below 133 we could see some problems; currently able to staff DARE and BC's; we average a loss of 7 officers per year
- It takes 11 months to hire someone, put them through Academy and field training, before they can answer a call for service

Commissioner Christiansen asked if crime was down because of the department's CIT. DC Mannix said this team was put together because of the current burglary problem and "yes," if you arrest the right people – 10% of the population is responsible for 90% of the crime. If we can arrest that 10% it really helps; crime prevention is an unknowable statistic.

One of the commissioners inquired about the health status of Officer Steve Robles. Officer Robles is back to work on light duty and hopes to return to his assignment as a motor officer when he returns to full duty.

## **12. ADJORN: 4:36**